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USA Film Festival
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USA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE USAFF55 INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION

DALLAS – The USA Film Festival announces the winners of the 55th Annual USA Film Festival's International Short Film & Video Competition.

Chosen from more than 500 international entries from 60 countries, the winners included:

FIRST PLACE / NARRATIVE
Mother, Sebastian Kwidziński, director

FIRST PLACE / ANIMATION
Luka and the Flower of the Sun, Tomoyasu Murata, director

FIRST PLACE / NONFICTION
Seeds from Kivu, Néstor López & Carlos Valle, co-directors

FIRST PLACE / EXPERIMENTAL
Potter's Mirror, Katherine O'Connor, director

STUDENT AWARD
Punter, Jason Adam Maselle, director

TEXAS AWARD
The Ugly Chickens, Mark Raso, director

The 2025 National Jury included actress, director and educator Karen Allen; actress, producer, educator and documentarian Diane Baker; actor Jim Beaver; actor Jason Scott Lee; animator and director Bill Haller; manager, writer, producer and director Chris Roe; artist, director and writer Rosson Crow; and film historian and author Foster Hirsch.

This year marks the 55th Anniversary of the Festival, which has awarded prizes to dozens of now established filmmakers early in their careers including Mark Osborne (*More*), Don Hertzfeldt (*Lilly and Jim*), Chel White (*Choreography for Copy Machine*), Michael Almereyda (*Another Girl, Another Planet*), Jessica Yu (*Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien*), Wes Anderson (*Bottle Rocket*), Marlon Riggs (*Tongues Untied*), Todd Haynes (*Superstar*), Alexander Payne (*The Passion of Martin*), George Hickenlooper (*Some Folks Call it a Sling Blade*), Alan Taylor (*That Burning Question*) and John Lasseter (*Tin Toy*).

Additional acknowledgement went to the following short works:

Jury Prize, Narrative – *Mrs. Faiza & Dr. Love*, Anissa Daoud, director
Jury Prize, Animation – *47*, Paulo Garcia, director
Jury Prize, Nonfiction – *Show Up and Start – The Art and Life of Dorothy Ramsay*, Neil Emery, director
Jury Prize, Experimental – *Mega Foundry*, Yixin Zhang, director
Jury Prize, Student – *The Recipe*, Craig McTurk, director
Jury Prize, Texas – *Dynasty and Destiny*, Travis Lee Ratcliff, director
Honorable Mention, Narrative – *Hui Ling*, Peijin Li, director
Honorable Mention, Narrative – *Infestation*, Yana Sar, director
Honorable Mention, Narrative – *Watching Walter*, Mitch Yapko, director
Honorable Mention, Animation – *Pocket Princess*, Olivia Loccisano, director
Honorable Mention, Animation - *Flocky*, Esther Casas Roura, director
Honorable Mention, Nonfiction – *Brainstorm: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Brain*, Jenna Bailey, director
Honorable Mention, Nonfiction – *The Top-Secret Story of SACO - Sino American Cooperative Organization*, Daniel J. Levendowski, director
Honorable Mention, Experimental – *Exile Echoes,* Mayzar Mahan, director
Honorable Mention, Student – *Syncope,* Linus von Stumberg, director
Honorable Mention, Student – *Mint Condition,* So Man Tsoi, director
Honorable Mention, Texas – *The Number Thirteen: A Tattoo History*, Justin Wilson, director
Honorable Mention, Texas – *Weasel*, Hisham Iyad Hajir, director

OFFICIAL SPONSORS

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ABOUT THE USA FILM FESTIVAL

A year-round film festival featuring 50 days of programs

The USA Film Festival is a 55-year-old Dallas-based 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the recognition and promotion of excellence in the film and video arts. Year-round events include the annual KidFilm® Festival; monthly screenings; special programs and premieres; and the USA Film Festival, held each Spring. Throughout the year, the Festival presents a variety of membership, exhibition, educational, and cultural programs designed to promote equity and equality, and to bring together audiences and artists for a "live cinema" experience.

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